

# The CLARION

Official Bulletin of the Washington State Music Teachers Association

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OCTOBER, 2008

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*with Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM*



My dear 91-year-old Grandma says she's not the least bit excited about this year's national elections. "Same ol' same ol'," she mutters, "silver tongues and lots of hot air..." I don't dare tell her I'm glued to CNN and C-SPAN much of the time! I'm sure happy WSMTA doesn't have election campaigning for the office I'm holding. This elected position (and all other state level elected positions) is one where a Nominating Committee recommends one able and agreed-upon person's name to the WSMTA membership, who in turn vote that person in at the state conference. I'd like to share how my name happened to come up.

It all started back in 1993, when I decided to earn my Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) title. Due to the program's requirements, I began to really get involved with my South King County Chapter, working on the Adjudications committee for a few years, editing the chapter newsletter, and eventually serving as chapter president. The WSMTA Leadership Seminar really impressed me. By then I had received my NCTM, and the WSMTA Nominating Committee drew their nominee names from the list of Certified mem-

bers. When searching for a nominee for the Recording Secretary position, the Chair apparently was calling Certified people through all the alphabet with "no thank you" responses until she got to my name, and I eagerly said, "YES!" After being elected that June, I had two wonderful years of service on the WSMTA Board of Directors (BOD). And then, the Nominating Committee needed a nominee for Vice President with BOD experience, from the west side of the state (they alternate east/west for the Vice President, President-elect, and President). Again, I said "YES!" knowing full well that the VP position automatically moves to Pres-elect, and then to President on the Nominating Committee's list. And that's how I became WSMTA President. JUST SAY YES. Will you?

## CURRENT EVENTS

### **WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition**

The WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition will be held on Friday through Sunday, November 7-9, 2008. It will be held at the Prosser Piano Recital Hall in Tukwila (south Seattle) at 13400 Interurban Avenue South. Simply take Exit 156 off I-5 and turn on Interurban Avenue South towards Tukwila. The building is just past the I-5 northbound on-ramp, on the left side of the street, across from Pacific Pride Fuel.

There are two piano divisions. Students age 11-14 years of age will perform in the junior piano division starting on Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. The senior piano division, for students 15-18 years of age, will commence Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon.

There is no charge to attend, and people can choose to stay for one or

more performances throughout the week-end.

If you have questions, contact Laurie Eash at [laurie52@aol.com](mailto:laurie52@aol.com) or Mary Ellen Cavelti, at [molly60music@comcast.net](mailto:molly60music@comcast.net).

*Laurie Eash, NCTM, OAC Co-Chair*

## FUTURE EVENTS

### **WSMTA Conference 2009**

**June 21-25, 2009**

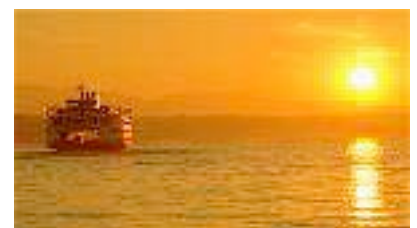
### **Yakima Valley Vistas**

The 2009 WSMTA Conference will be held in Yakima, Washington June 21-25, 2009, at the Red Lion Hotel, with guest clinician Ingrid Clarfield, Professor of Piano and Coordinator of the Piano Department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mark your calendars and plan to come enjoy the scenic Yakima Valley, renew acquaintances, meet new friends, experience the wonder of music, be inspired by the many dedicated teachers who will share their knowledge and expertise with us, and, since Yakima is the center of wine country, there will even be time for a little wine tasting.

We are currently seeking proposals for Conference workshops. The deadline is November 10, 2008. Please submit your ideas to me.

*Carol Cross, NCTM  
Chair, WSMTA Conference 2009  
[dccross@kvalley.com](mailto:dccross@kvalley.com)*



## WSMTA Contact Information

### WSMTA Executive Office

#### **Executive Manager:**

Judith Price, NCTM  
4904 Hilton Rd. NE  
Olympia, WA 98516  
Phone: 360-459-4338  
e-mail: WSMTAoffice@comcast.net

### WSMTA Website

www.wsmta.net

## WSMTA Board of Directors

**President:** Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM  
11445 SE 185th Place  
Renton, WA 98055-4370  
Phone: 425-228-8721

e-mail: mary.k.owen@att.net

**President Elect:** Jani Peterson, NCTM  
2601 Mix Road  
Moscow, ID 83843  
Phone: 208-883-3991

e-mail: jani@turbonet.com

#### **Immediate Past President:**

Margee Webster, NCTM  
2246 S Rockwood Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99203  
Phone: 509-534-9678

e-mail: johnmargee@comcast.net

#### **Vice President:** Dianne Johnston

P.O. Box 655  
Kingston, WA 98346  
Phone: 360-297-3972

e-mail: dianne@silverlink.net

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(see above)

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209 E Canyon Drive  
Kennewick, WA 99337-5824  
Phone: 509-586-2219

e-mail: pattianken@charter.net

**Ed. Board Chair:** Debra Florian, NCTM  
(see Ed. Board)

**Adjudications Chair:** Janice Smith  
15604 N Sycamore  
Mead, WA 99021-9376  
Phone: 509-467-8147  
e-mail: msmiths1@comcast.net

**District I VP:** Sally Kirk  
5399 Tenneson  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284  
Phone: 360-856-4938

e-mail: CTK@wavicable.com

**District II VP:** Patrick Stephens, NCTM  
2900 S Massachusetts St.  
Seattle, WA 98144  
206-380-5579

e-mail: Patrick@pianotempo.com

**District III VP:** Mary Ellen Cavelti,  
NCTM  
11122 State Rd. 162nd E  
Puyallup, WA 98374  
Phone: 253-845-2358

e-mail: Molly60music@comcast.net

**District IV VP:** Cinda Redman, NCTM  
14711 SE 29th St.  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
Phone: 360-256-8888  
e-mail: cindapiano@comcast.net

**District V VP:** Harriet West  
2213 S Beaumont  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
Phone: 509-765-6585  
e-mail: dhwest6@gcpower.net

**District VI VP:** Onnie Adams  
1516 Goethals  
Richland, WA 99352  
Phone: 509-943-1758  
e-mail: onnelle@aol.com

**District VII VP:** Stephanie Hill, NCTM  
1132 Ripon Ave.  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
Phone: 208-746-1122  
e-mail: smhill@clearwire.net

**Clarion Editor:** Gary Alan Hind  
(see below)

## WSMTA Education Board

**Ed. Board Chair:** Debra Florian, NCTM  
16725 Seminole Rd., NE  
Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-697-1965  
e-mail: flostudio@comcast.net

**Ed. Board Member:** Peter Mack, NCTM  
1906 26th Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98112  
Phone: 206-328-7294  
e-mail: mackpeter@earthlink.net

**Ed. Board Member:**  
Jeffrey Gilliam, NCTM  
Dept. of Music, WWU  
516 High Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225-9107  
Phone: 360-650-3709  
e-mail: gilliam@cc.wu.edu

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(see Immediate Past President)

**Ed. Board Member:**  
Colleen Hunter, NCTM  
2911 N 5th St.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
Phone: 208-664-0910  
e-mail: h4d2@verizon.net

**Ed. Board Members, Ex-Officio**  
Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM (see  
President)  
Jani Smith (see Adjudications Chair)  
Judith Price (see Executive Manager)  
Diane Stober, NCTM  
117 N Franklin Ave.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Phone: 509-663-7654  
e-mail: dalsegno1@aol.com

**The CLARION** is published 9 times each year: Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March, April, May, and June. It includes membership news and announcements, and pertinent news of the Music Teachers National Association. Articles must be submitted no later than the first day of the previous month.

**Editor:** Gary Alan Hind  
20038 Lysir Ct. NE  
Poulsbo, WA 98370  
(360) 697-2591  
basinroad@comcast.net

## Address Changes & Corrections

Clarkston/Lewiston Chapter  
President Nyla Clare's street address  
has changed to 2912 24th St. and  
email to nyla@clearwire.net

## MEMBERSHIP

### *Welcome New Members!*

#### *Eastside Chapter*

Elizabeth Devall  
Leslie Marcks

#### *Kitsap County Chapter*

Melanie Harris

#### *Pullman Chapter*

Kelleen Barham

#### *Seattle Chapter*

Michael Matesky

#### *Spokane Chapter*

Ashley Potter

#### *Tacoma Chapter*

Phyllis Twedt

#### *Collegiate Students*

Lillian Yang

## EDUCATION

### MTNA FOUNDATION FUND

#### State MTNA Foundation Chair Needed

Have you ever received financial aid that enabled you to achieve a personal and/or professional goal? Do you sometimes feel "'tis better to give than to receive?" Do you think it's important to give to charities that support needs in our profession? Do you enjoy writing? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, WSMTA wants YOU. WSMTA is in need of someone to fill the MTNA Foundation Chair position, and share with the membership information about the activities of the MTNA Foundation. The website (www.mtna.org) is a wonderful resource.

The job description is as follows:  
1) Write articles for The CLARION when requested, explaining the pur-

pose of the MTNA Scholarship Foundation and communicating information received from the National Foundation Chair. 2) Solicit funds from the WSMTA membership. 3) Contact WSMTA Conference Chair about opportunities to promote Foundation donations at the Conference. RESOURCES: Prior articles from The CLARION and correspondence from MTNA Foundation National Chair.

If interested, please contact Mary Kaye Owen at (425) 228-8721 or mary.k.owen@att.net.

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM  
WSMTA President

## CERTIFICATION CORNER

### Certification Application Fee Grants

At the June 2008 meeting, the WSMTA Board of Directors voted to reimburse one half (\$100) of the Certification Application Fee for the first ten teachers who apply. Documentation of submitting an approved certification application and fee must be sent to the WSMTA Certification Chair before reimbursement is made. Please email me if you have any questions about these grants.

Congratulations to the following certified teacher!

#### MTNA Certification in Piano

Andrea Llafet, NCTM, Vancouver

#### Certification Questions?

Certa Faye Cation, the famous Southern advice columnist, made her premiere appearance at the conference in June, and I have heard that many people enjoyed her presentation and her down-to-earth answers to questions about certification. I have invited her to occasionally answer questions in this column. Here is her first letter and response:

Dear Certa Faye

**I just joined my local chapter of WSMTA and I have heard about certification. What is it?**

Thank you,  
Brandon Newbie

Dear Brand New:

Certification is a process that validates a teacher's qualifications for

their specific field of instruction. In addition, it shows the teacher's commitment to continued excellence. The program is based upon a set of five professional standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do; your preparation (which can include performances, knowledge of music theory, history and teaching and college studies), your teaching practices, business management, collaborative and community work, and professional and personal renewal.

Your local chapter should have a certification chairperson, who should be able to give you advice. In addition the WSMTA state chair, Diane Stober, is available to help answer your questions.

At first the process may seem a little daunting, but you will find it is an exceptionally worthwhile pursuit.

Y'all can do it!

Certa Faye

Diane Stober, NCTM  
WSMTA Certification Chair  
117 N. Franklin Ave.  
Wenatchee WA 98801  
509 663-7654  
DalSegno1@aol.com



### No Place to Teach

*"The church where I play does not allow me to teach organ there. They tell me that they are afraid of losing their recognition of exemption from federal income tax if they allow someone to teach organ in the church. What can I do?"*

Most organ teachers and students do not have organs in their homes and studios. As a result, historically, organists have given lessons inside church buildings. If churches do not allow instruction to take place within their facilities, then once the existing generation of organists has retired, there will be no organists to take their place.

WSMTA members have voiced concerns to me about denial of organ teaching privileges by churches in Washington State. These situations entail complicated legal issues that need to be resolved with the churches involved—for the protection of the church and for the protection of the teacher. Therefore, over the summer, I emailed Rachel

Kramer, NCTM, Member Liaison for MTNA.

Rachel told me that many churches in the US have lessons going on in them. Most of you probably know organ teachers who are teaching in churches. The teachers involved may have worked with their respective churches to put into place individual agreements. Rachel suggested that Washington State music teachers should examine agreements that organ teachers who are already successfully teaching in churches have worked out. You may want to start with teachers of organ lessons in churches of the same denomination as yours.

I inquired if the MTNA legal office had advice on what our members could tell a church to alleviate the church's concerns. Rachel replied: "We (MTNA National) can not get involved in this situation. Unless one of our teachers is grieved or has a specific problem from a church there is nothing we can do. We can not go into an area and write to churches telling them what to do. And, the legal counsel is to help 'individual' members with problems." (Rachel gave me permission to forward our email correspondence on this issue to any WSMTA members. Please email me if you would like me to forward this to you.)

Federal, state and local laws may be involved depending on the church in question. In addition to federal income tax concerns, there may also be potential liability issues to consider. Consulting with legal counsel, including an attorney who specializes in federal income tax matters, is the best way to work through these issues. And, as Rachel Kramer pointed out, legal counsel may be available to help individual MTNA members with problems because this situation involves complicated legal issues that may affect an MTNA member's livelihood as a music teacher. If you, as an individual MTNA member are having difficulties, it might be worth pursuing all of the benefits available to you through your MTNA membership. This is the web page describing the free legal consultation that may be available to you through MTNA: <http://mtna.org/Resources/LegalConsultation/tabid/318/Default.aspx>. You may also call the MTNA office at (888) 512-5278 for additional informa-

tion on the member benefit of free legal consultation.

Is it possible to teach organ in a church? Yes, and organ teachers throughout the country are doing so. If you teach organ and your local church is reluctant to allow you to teach in the church, this not only adversely affects your livelihood as a teacher-- it impacts the future of the organ. Although it may be tempting to take the path of least resistance and just decide to not teach organ, the ramification of not teaching organ to the next generation is huge. Do we really want the organ and its music to disappear? Without teachers and students, this is not a far-fetched scenario. It is well worth the time and effort involved to ensure that the future generation has every opportunity to know and love "the King of Instruments."

### Conference Follow-up for Organists

At the conference in Bremerton last June, I began to compile a list of teachers who would like to be included on an email list for issues specific to the organ. If you would like to be included on that list, please send me your email address. If you gave me your email address at the conference and did not receive any emails from me over the summer, please email me again. Some of the email I sent came back to me as "undeliverable."

Also, WSM TA member Karen Monroe is setting up a "Yahoo" group for WSM TA organists. It is a place where we can stay in touch and discuss things with each other. Please email her at [Rmonroe@localaccess.com](mailto:Rmonroe@localaccess.com) if you would like an invitation to join this group.

Joann Richardson, NCTM  
WSM TA Organ Chair

## ENRICHMENT

### Arts & Awareness



### Arts Advocacy & Awareness Chair Vacant

A sampling of comments heard in various locations around the state:

*"Gas is so expensive, we can't afford for Johnny to take private music lessons this year."*

*"Our chapter members' students performed in a Playathon to raise money for the music therapy program at the hospital!"*

*"Suzy just can't get to school for Jazz Band at 6:00 a.m."*

*"I took my students to the violin-maker's for a little field trip!"*

*"Our school district won't have anything to do with independent music teachers."*

*"The Art Museum wants my students to play some Debussy while the Impressionist works are on display Saturday morning."*

*"Music lessons are only for rich people anymore!"*

Do these comments hit close to home? Are you stirred up by these statements? WSM TA is in need of a Chair for the Arts Advocacy and Awareness Committee.

The Chair may: 1) Communicate with the National Chair any information that puts music education in peril in our state or that illustrates successful efforts in advocating, and communicate information from the National Chair about issues pertaining to advocacy for music education to the membership. 2) Prepare a semi-annual report about the activities of the state committee during the year. 3) Keep a file of articles about arts advocacy in the state to be informed about the issues. 4) Write articles for the newspaper on advocacy issues. 5) Write articles for The CLARION to inform the membership of current advocacy issues, and to communicate information from the National Chair. 6) Ask to speak at the state conference about arts advocacy issues; be willing to speak to interest groups and encourage advocacy in the communities of the state. 7) Encourage networking by maintaining communication with other advocacy groups in the state: MENC, NAMM, etc.

RESOURCES: Prior articles from The CLARION and materials from the National Chair.

If you are interested, please contact Mary Kaye Owen at (425) 228-8721 or [mary.k.owen@att.net](mailto:mary.k.owen@att.net).

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM  
WSM TA President

## NEW MUSIC

**Celebration Series Perspectives, Levels Preparatory-10**, published by Frederic Harris Music. (\$11.50-\$29.50 per volume). Handbook for teachers (\$47.95).

Harris's splendid new "Perspectives" series debuted in Washington at the WSM TA conference in Bremerton to great acclaim.

This massive revision and expansion of the well-respected and musically sound Celebration Series deserves close attention. Each level includes a repertoire album, a book of etudes, a student workbook (through level 8), and CD's of the repertoire and etudes.

The repertoire has been selected to fulfill examination requirements for The Royal Conservatory of Music and has been carefully chosen and edited. Music from the four basic keyboard periods is included in every volume. For purposes of this review, I will select just a sampling.

Etudes (level 2) includes "traditional" studies by Czerny and Kohler as well as charming (and appealing) etudes by contemporary composers including Linda Niamath, Chee-Hwa Tan, and Nancy Telfer. (Telfer's "Crocodile Teeth" is charming and utilizes—in one page—multiple meters, staccato and legato touches, two note phrases, much travelling about the keyboard.)

Repertoire (level 5) includes "standards" such as the well known (but not always well played) Beethoven Sonatina in F and appealing contemporary works: Jenő Takács' "Sounding the Accordion", Siegfried Merath's "Cha-Cha", and George Fiala's "Postlude a la Shostakovich"—these are new to me, and all are gems!

Repertoire (level 10) includes the Bach C Minor Fantasie, two movements from the G Major French Suite, and the E-flat Major Prelude & Fugue, WTC II as well as sonata movements by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Romantic and post romantic works include a Faure Barcarolle, Hoffman's Berceuse, Liszt's Liebestraum # 3 (the famous one), and the C sharp Minor Polonaise by Chopin (possibly my favorite of Chopin's polonaises, and not programmed enough (in my estimation.) Again, wonderful care has been taken to select unusual and appealing

contemporary repertoire. Included in this volume are a Toccata by Takacs, the Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes by Ginastera, and two Muczynski Preludes.

The Workbooks are comprehensive, including information about the composers, the styles, the form, the harmonic progressions, and so forth. I think that these workbooks, which correlate to the repertoire and etudes of the same level, would appeal particularly to adult students and teenagers (who often say they want to know MORE about the music, and then cast aside theory workbooks.)

The comprehensive Handbook for Teachers is a hefty tome (301 pages) that includes answers to any questions a teacher might have about repertoire included in the series, as well as a wealth of information about teaching, composers, and interpreting style.

Congratulations to Harris on this stellar new series!

*Robin Chadwick, NCTM  
WSMTA New Music Chair*

## LOCAL CHAPTERS

### **Edmonds Chapter Workshop October 4**

The Edmonds Music Teachers Association is sponsoring a Fall Workshop for piano teachers and advanced students on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. **Steven Hesla** from the University of Montana will make two presentations: "Masterful Pedaling from Head to Toe" and "Adventures in Three-Dimensional Playing." The workshop will be held at the Edmonds United Methodist Church. Fees are \$30 for members who have registered in advance, \$40.00 for non-members and at-the-door, and \$5.00 for students.

Those who are interested in attending can contact Tim Saye at 425-770-0767 or [timisaye@yahoo.com](mailto:timisaye@yahoo.com) and request a registration form. Or you can send a check by September 28, made payable to EMTA, to PMB 1200, 22833 Bothell-Everett Highway, Suite 110, Bothell, WA 98201.

### **Jody Graves Master Class & Recital in Enumclaw, November 1**

The Enumclaw chapter of the WSMTA is excited to be hosting a master class and recital to be given by Jody Graves on November 1, 2008 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Enumclaw. The master class will be from 1 – 3 pm and the recital will be from 7 – 8 pm. Admission to the master class is free and the tickets to the recital are \$5.00 for students, teachers and seniors (65 and up), \$7.00 for adults, and \$20.00 for a family of four. Refreshments will be served following the recital.

For additional information on this musically inspirational event, contact Luanne Kauppila (360) 825 – 8870 [luanne@luannesmusicstudio.com](mailto:luanne@luannesmusicstudio.com), or Shala Gunnells (360) 802 – 8907 [Shala@shalaspiano.com](mailto:Shala@shalaspiano.com).

### **Puyallup Valley Chapter Workshop, Master Class & Recital, November 22**

#### **"A Day with Mr. A." featuring Dennis Alexander**

Place: Our Savior Lutheran Church  
4519 112th St. E  
Tacoma, WA 98446

**9 am - noon:** Workshop for teachers "Developing Artistry through Color, Choreography." This stimulating presentation will cover techniques to help beginning through late intermediate level students play more artistically and stylistically. Artistic concepts, many music examples and use of body gestures will be incorporated to give teachers concrete ideas to share with their students.

**1:30:** Master class with five students (beginning through advanced)

**3:30:** Recital by Dennis "The Music of Dennis Alexander"

Fees: \$15 per teacher for the entire day, \$5 per student for the master-class and recital (\$15 maximum per family). Master class and recital are open for teachers and students to attend. Register with Cheri Dyer by November 1 to reserve a ticket: 253-845-3725

## MTNA

### **RMM DVDs Available for Purchase**

Six Recreational Music Making sessions from the 2008 MTNA National Conference in Denver were video recorded by a professional film company and produced as a four-DVD set. A trailer about the DVDs is posted on the National Piano Foundation and MTNA websites. The standard price for the set is \$79.00, but orders placed before December 31, 2008, will receive the DVD set at the special introductory price of \$49.00. Shipping and handling is \$8.00. RMM offers the promise of millions of potential adult students who regret quitting music lessons years ago or those who never had an opportunity to fulfill their dream of playing the piano. Topics include Getting Started, Partnering with Retailers, Three Different Paths to RMM Teaching, How Adults Learn, Teaching Ideas for Advancing Levels, Giving the Gift of Chords, Ensembles, How to Integrate the Traditional Piano Student into RMM Classes, RMM Resources, and presentations by four guest presenters. For more information, visit the NPF website, [www.pianonet.com](http://www.pianonet.com).

## BULLETIN BOARD

### **The 2009 NW Chopin Festival**

The NW Chapter of the Chopin Foundation was formed in 2001 and is designed to continue the tradition of encouraging talented young American pianists to study and perform classical music and to highlight the music of Chopin.

In February, 2008 we sponsored the fifth annual NW Chopin Festival. These Festivals are competitions featuring fine local young piano talent performing the music of Chopin. Over the lifetime of the Festival, the number of participants has continued to grow and at present the Festival has become one of Washington State's larger piano competitions.

The 2009 NW Chopin Festival will be held at the Seattle Sherman Clay Store and the Mayflower Park Hotel on Saturday, February 7 from 9am-

5pm. The Honors Recital will be held at the Frye Museum on Sunday, February 8 at 7:00pm. Students through age 18 are invited to participate. Adjudicators for the 2009 Festival include Jeffrey Gilliam, Jeff and Karen Savage, and Julia Lee.

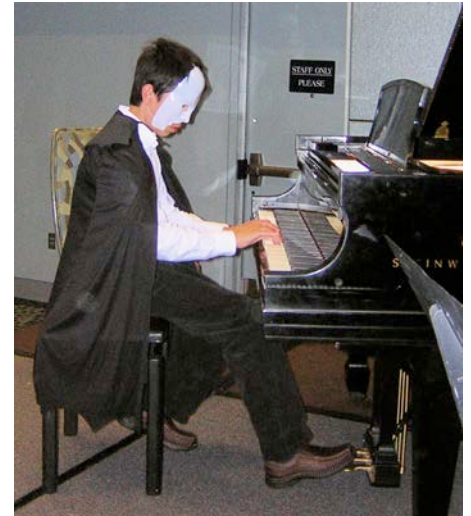
Applications for the 2009 Festival will be accepted from November 1, 2008 through December 1, 2008. Scholarships are awarded to outstanding winners in the D Division. Enrollment fees are according to age, and are to be submitted with the application. Applications for the 2009 Festival will be available on November 1, 2008 only online at the website of the NW Chapter of the Chopin Foundation ([www.chopinnw.org](http://www.chopinnw.org)).

## 2008 CONFERENCE

### Tacoma Chapter annual "Trick-or-Treat" costume trio participants



Young Pirate



Young Phantom of the Opera



Kitsap County's Verde String Quartet serenading at the Banquet



L-R: Jane Campbell, Snohomish County; unidentified, Kathryn McLin, Mason County; Brook Beecher & Jean Johansen-Kuhn, Olympia



Kitsap Chapter helpers, Captain Hook (alias Caroline Pierce) and Mary Foster-Grant.

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[esther\\_warkov@comcast.net](mailto:esther_warkov@comcast.net), member WSMTA  
971-255-0388

## SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### 2008-2009 Piano Series • Season Begins November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

**November 2, 2008**

*"Musical Journeys and Discoveries:  
A Program of French and Russian Music"*  
**Charles Enlow**

**January 25, 2009**

*"The New 'Three B's': Beethoven, Brahms and the Beatles"*  
**Jensina Byington and Jeff Junkinsmith**

**April 19, 2009**

*"To Vienna and St. Petersburg with Two Pianos"*  
**Nancy Matesky and Gloria Swisher**

*Recitals benefit the Shoreline Piano Scholarship Fund*

All Recitals are on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. - Campus Theater  
16101 Greenwood Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133

For maps and driving directions go to:  
[www.shoreline.edu/CollegeMaps.html](http://www.shoreline.edu/CollegeMaps.html)  
Parking on campus is free on Sundays

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<b>Executive Manager</b> Judith A. Price, NCTM	4904 Hilton Rd. NE Olympia, WA 98516	360-459-4338 WSMTAoffice@comcast.net
<b>District I Vice President</b> Sally Kirk	5399 Tenneson Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	360-856-4938 CTK@wavecable.com
<b>District II Vice President</b> Patrick Stephens, NCTM	2900 S Massachusetts St. Seattle, WA 98144	206-380-5579 patrick@pianotempo.com
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<b>Clarion Editor</b> Gary Alan Hind	20038 Lysir Ct. NE Poulsbo, WA 98370	360-697-2591 basinroad@comcast.net

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<b>Historian/ Archivist</b> Peggy Austin	808 Percival SW Olympia, WA 98502	360-943-0926 paustin2003@comcast.net
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<b>Nominating</b> Marilyn Linde	(see Chapter of the Year)	
<b>Waivers, Dues/Conference</b> Kaycee Groom	16219 132nd Place SE Renton, WA 98058	425-227-0339 julevamar@aol.com
<b>WSMTA Scholarship Fund</b> Kathryn McLin	550 E Strong Rd. Shelton, WA 98584	360-426-3770 mcmuzik@gmail.com

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<b>Certification</b> Diane Stober, NCTM	117 N Franklin Ave. Wenatchee, WA 98801	509-663-7654 DalSegno1@aol.com
<b>Chamber Music</b> Jody Graves	Music Dept. – 119, EWU Cheney, WA 99004	509-359-6119 jgraves@mail.ewu.edu
<b>College/University Faculty Forum</b> Jeffrey Gilliam, NCTM	516 High St., Dept. of Music, WWU Bellingham, WA 98225-9107	360-650-3709 gilliam@cc.wvu.edu
<b>Collegiate Student Chapter</b> Michelle Mielke, NCTM	2245 NW Harrison St. #A Pullman, WA 99163-3103	509-332-2836 mmielke@mail.wsu.edu
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<b>MTNA Jr. Perf. Competition Coordinator</b> Jee K. Wong, NCTM	410 12th St. SE Auburn, WA 98002	206-412-8996 jeekwong@aol.com
<b>MTNA Sr. Perf. Competition Coordinator</b> Nancy Heyer, NCTM	2517 Cornwall Ave. Bellingham, WA 98225	360-671-7497 theheyers@msn.com
<b>MTNA Young Artist/ Chamber Music Competition Coordinator</b> Onneta Adams	(see District VI Vice President)	
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<b>New Music Reviews</b> Robin Chadwick, NCTM	239 Alderwood Dr. Chehalis, WA 98352	360-345-6777 robin@localaccess.com
<b>Outstanding Artist Competition Co-Chairs</b> Laurie Eash, NCTM	S 1924 Post St. Spokane, WA 99203	509-747-6964 laurie52@aol.com
Mary Ellen Cavelti, NCTM	(see District III Vice President)	
<b>Organ</b> Joann Richardson, NCTM	4166 NW Hosman Circle Silverdale, WA 98383	360-692-7628 naggy@richardsonlaw.biz
<b>Pedagogy</b> Myrna Capp, NCTM	903 W. Fulton Seattle, WA 98119	206-283-0129 mcapp@spu.edu
<b>Strings</b> Grant Donnellan	248 N Garden Terrace Bellingham, WA 98225	360-920-7820 grant.donnellan@wwu.edu
<b>Student Teachers</b> Marilyn Linde	(see Chapter of the Year)	
<b>Technology</b> Valerie Williams	352 NE Conifer Dr. Bremerton, WA 98311	360-307-9099 valerie@vocalsplendor.com
<b>Voice</b> Sandra Glover	4221 S. 252nd St. Kent, WA 98032	253-529-4455 jsglover@att.net
<b>WMEA Liason</b> Judith Price, NCTM	(see Executive Manager)	
<b>Woodwinds</b> Iris Ingram	11908 N. Lake Shore Dr. Lake Stevens, WA 98258	425-377-0623 iris_ingram@yahoo.com
<b>Workshop List</b> Judith Pearson, NCTM	17255 W Big Lake Blvd. Mt. Verenon, WA 98274	360-422-6115 rpjpatthelake@msn.com
<b>Young Composers Project</b> Krista Seely	4590 W Big Lake Blvd. Bainbridge Island, WA 98110	206-8442-7150 ks88keys@gmail.com

#### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

<b>Bellingham</b> Mary Walby	P.O. Box 1338 Bellingham, WA 98227	360-527-9626 mwalby27@hotmail.com
<b>Clark County</b> Andrea Llafet, NCTM	9711 Silver Star Ave. Vancouver, WA 98664	360-254-0880 parkandell@yahoo.com
<b>Clarkston- Lewiston</b> Nyla Clare	2912 24th St. Clarkston, WA 99403	509-758-1424 nyla@clearwire.net
<b>Cowlitz County</b> Karla Dudley	2315 Jennifer Pl. Longview, WA 98632	206-577-1366 kcpiano@comcast.net
<b>Eastside</b> Carol Hibbard, NCTM	4234 123 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. SE Bellevue, WA 98006	425-747-4397 hibbardbc@comcast.net
<b>Edmonds</b> Ruth Bradshaw	14722 22nd Ave. SE Bothell, WA 98012	206-365-1777 Ruthbradshaw1@aol.com
<b>Enumclaw</b> Luanne Kauppila, NCTM	46419 287th Ave. Se Enumclaw, WA 98022-8745	360-825-8870 Luanne@luannemusicstudio.com
<b>Gig Harbor</b> Bonnie Hampton	11639 Ollala Valley Rd. Ollala, WA 98359	253-857-6062 dbhampton@juno.com
<b>Grays Harbor</b> Ruth Kivi, NCTM	120 Evergreen Ln. Montesano, WA 98563	360-249-5872 kashigato@comcast.net

<b>Kitsap County</b> Mary Elizabeth Reynolds, NCTM	28836 NE State Hwy 3 Poulsbo, WA 98370	360-598-6807 gypsypiano@embarqmail.com
<b>Lake Washington</b> Pat Martin	5020 117th Ave. SE Bellevue, WA 98006	425-746-6323 psouzamartin@comcast.net
<b>Lewis County</b> Robin Chadwick, NCTM	239 Alderwood Dr. Chehalis, WA 98352	360-345-6777 robin@localaccess.com
<b>Lynden</b> Karen Scholten	8508 Van Buren Rd. Everson, WA 98247	360-966-4895 Karen_Scholten@msn.com
<b>Mason County</b> Kathryn McLin	550 E Strong Rd. Shelton, WA 98584	360-426-3770 mcmusik@gmail.com
<b>Moses Lake</b> Preta Laughlin	11245 Hwy 28 W Quincy, WA 98848	509-787-7547 lploughlin@juno.com
<b>Mount Rainier</b> Sharon Beattie-White	P.O. Box 115 Milton, WA 98372	253-863-0559 sharonarlene50@msn.com
<b>Okanogan County</b> Roz Nau	P.O. Box 728 Tonasket, WA 98855	509-486-4673 roznau@hotmail.com
<b>Olympia</b> Lynn Lewis	4629 NE Foxhall Dr. Olympia, WA 98513	360-438-0738 lynnmlewis@hotmail.com
<b>Olympic Peninsula</b> Kayla Dymment	P.O. Box 96 Port Angeles, WA 98362	360-809-0941 kayladymment@hotmail.com
<b>Pullman</b> Karen Savage	1835 NW Turner Dr. Pullman, WA 99163	509-338-9675 khsavage@wsu.edu
<b>Puyallup Valley</b> Mary Ellen Cavelti, NCTM	11122 State Rd. 162nd E Puyallup, WA 98374	253-845-2358 molly60music@comcast.net
<b>Seattle</b> Martha J. Garrett	7508 31st. Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98116	206-524-2911 marthajgarnet@comcast.net
<b>Skagit Valley</b> Sally Kirk	5399 Tenneson Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	360-856-4938 CTK@wavecable.com
<b>Snohomish County</b> Kathleen Bigler	4611 Fowler Ave. Everett, WA 98203	425-267-9084 scmtapresident@gmail.com
<b>South King County</b> Karen Hollenback, NCTM	15009 SE 171 St. Renton, WA 98058	425-252-3339 kwhollenback@msn.com
<b>Spokane</b> Valerie Roth Roubos	6332 S Moran Dr. Spokane, WA 99223	509-448-7630 vroubos@comcast.net
<b>Sunn Valley</b> Charla Wheeler	991 Olmstead Rd. Grandview, WA 98930	509-882-4811 charlawheeler@aol.com
<b>Tacoma</b> Paul Twedt	P.O. Box 6852 Tacoma, WA 98417	253-752-1333 svendell@gmail.com
<b>Tri-Cities</b> Audrey Clark	706 Cedar St. Richland, WA 99352	509-946-5453 laclark8@charter.net
<b>Walla Walla</b> Margo Cox, NCTM	111 NE C St. College Place, WA 99324	509-301-6333 mrsc@margocox.org
<b>Wenatchee</b> Linda Butler, NCTM	785 Eastmont Ave. East Wenatchee, WA 98802	509-884-7738 lindabutler@hotmail.com
<b>West Sound</b> Karina Gordievich	P.O. Box 1329 Allyn, WA 98524	360-275-9109 karinag@myuw.net
<b>Whatcom County</b> Patricia A. Lundquist	2707 Jefferson St. Bellingham, WA 98225	360-733-5261 lundquiststudio@comcast.net
<b>Whidbey Island</b> Judy Prichard	1975 Stick Point Lane Oak Harbor, WA 98277	360-675-5221 giprichard@oakharbor.net
<b>Yakima/Ellensburg</b> Carol Cross, NCTM	103 W 9th Ave. Ellensburg, WA 98926	509-925-5104 dccross@kvalley.com

## ***Dates & Deadlines***

- Oct. 4:** District VI Workshop.
- Oct. 4:** Edmonds Chapter Workshop. (see article)
- Oct. 11:** District I & II Conference, Marysville.
- Nov. 1:** Jody Graves Master Class & Recital, Enumclaw. (see article)
- Nov. 7-9:** WSM TA Outstanding Artist Competition, Tukwila. (see article)
- Nov. 7-9:** MTNA Performance Competition, Des Moines.
- Nov. 18:** District IV Conference, Centralia.
- Nov. 22:** Puyallup Valley Chapter Workshop, Master Class & Recital, Tacoma. (see article)

## **In This Issue**

- ☀ **Just Say Yes!** (President's Corner, page 1)
- ☀ **Invitation to the Outstanding Artist Competition** (page 1)
- ☀ **Announcing the 2009 WSM TA Conference in Yakima** (page 1)
- ☀ **Vacant WSM TA Chair positions need filling--see MTNA Foundation (page 2) and Arts Awareness & Advocacy (page 4)**
- ☀ **WSM TA Conference 2008 Photos** (page 6)

**Remember to visit your WSM TA website at : [www.wsmta.net](http://www.wsmta.net) & see *The CLARION in full color!***