

The CLARION

Official Bulletin of the Washington State Music Teachers Association

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NOVEMBER, 2008

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

with Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM



Isn't it nice when students grow up and move out of your life's routine, but still keep in touch? At a former student's wedding reception, it was fun to hear her reveal memories of piano lessons. Her mom shared some memories, too. So did I! Being invited to that wedding made me feel validated as a teacher, almost as much as I felt validated when I received my NCTM.

One little boy studied piano with me all through elementary, middle, and high school, and even a bit during college. When he signed up to join the Peace Corps as a worker in Ethiopia, I was honored when he asked me to provide a reference on his behalf to the U.S. Government. Once again, my career choice of teaching piano seemed like a worthy calling, and I felt validated.

There were music teachers in my own childhood and wacky teen years who gave me so much, and after my last lessons with them, I never contacted them again. That is, until I earned my Masters degree almost two decades later. For some reason, at that point I was moved to get hold of each one and thank them for teaching and influencing me. They all seemed happy to hear from me. I

wish I had kept in touch with them without the twenty year gap.

During this month of Thanksgiving, let me encourage you to think of some influential teachers or students from long ago, find them, and tell them how glad you are that they've played an important role in your life. Happy November!

BRAVO!

Thanks for Chairing

The call for three WSMTA committee chairs was answered by three WSMTA members with hearts for service in these areas. WSMTA appreciates and thanks Yelena Balabanova, Doreen Slaugh, NCTM and Mary Elizabeth Reynolds, NCTM for sharing their volunteer spirit with WSMTA.

Yelena Balabanova moved to Mill Creek, Washington from Colorado over the summer. When the call went out in October's issue of The Clarion, she came forward to chair the WSMTA Arts Awareness and Advocacy Committee, a subject near and dear to her for several years.

The Independent Music Teacher Forum Committee is now being chaired by Doreen Slaugh, an inspiring music teacher and member of the Moses Lake Chapter. Doreen can slip tips on teaching and running a studio into almost any conversation, and she's a perfect fit for this committee chair position.

Responding to the call for a WSMTA MTNA Foundation Committee Chair is Mary Elizabeth Reynolds. In addition to serving as Kitsap County Chapter President, Mary Elizabeth has a real interest in helping others, and that's what the MTNA Foundation is all about.

WSMTA also extends many thanks to the former Committee

Chairs for their previous work on the committees: Elaine Scherperel-Burgess (Arts Awareness and Advocacy), Rick Seifert (Independent Music Teachers Forum), and Karen Schaefer (MTNA Foundation). WSMTA wishes them well in their new endeavors.

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM

FUTURE EVENTS

**WSMTA Conference 2009
June 21-25, 2009**

Yakima Valley Vistas



Clinician, Ingrid Clarfield

We are happy to announce that Ingrid Clarfield will be our featured clinician at the 2009 WSMTA Conference in Yakima, June 21-25. She will present three lectures and teach two master classes. Mark your calendars and plan to attend these and many other inspirational sessions!

Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, nationally recognized teacher, clinician, pianist, and author, is Professor of

(Continued on Page 3)

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ARTICLES

- must be submitted no later than the 1st day of the month previous to publication date.

- must be in the form of MS Word documents attached to email messages.

- must contain **no special formatting**, other than normal tabs and carriage returns.

- **Please do not use any custom tabbing or indents.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE EDITOR

ADVERTISERS

- may obtain an Advertising Request Form from the WSMTA Executive Manager.

WSMTA Officers, Chairs, & Chapter Presidents Lists

Please add these new Chairs:

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Email address correction:

Wenatchee Chapter President Linda Butler: lindarbutler@hotmail.com (the "r" was omitted in the Oct. list)

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

Clark County Chapter
Hallie Horowitz

Eastside Chapter

Leslie Marckx (misspelled in last month's issue)
Kai Chen
Peter Ellis
Linda Kerwin
Kathryn Nickerson

Gig Harbor Chapter
Ron Bechtel

Kitsap County Chapter
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FUTURE EVENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

WSMTA Conference 2009 **Yakima Valley Vistas**



Piano and Coordinator of the Piano Department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey. She also directs Westminster Choir College's Piano Week for High School Students and is a frequent guest clinician at Calgary Arts Summer School Piano Camp in Alberta, Canada.

Ms. Clarfield holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College where she studied with John Perry. She also holds a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. Since 1976, she has performed regularly in two-piano recitals with Lillian Livingston.

Ms. Clarfield has given lecture-recitals, workshops and master classes in more than a hundred cities across North America, including presentations at State and National conferences of The Music Teachers National Association. She has presented numerous master classes and pedagogy sessions at the National Conference of Keyboard Pedagogy, the TCU/Van Cliburn Institute, the National Piano Teachers Institute, the Music Teachers Association of California and the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, where she serves on the Board of Directors.

Among the many collections she has authored for Alfred Publishing Company are: *Keys To Stylistic Mastery, Books 1-3*, co-authored with Dennis Alexander, which provide students with tools to create performances that are stylistically accurate. Key pedagogical concepts for efficient learning and artistic performance are outlined in her series, *From Mystery to Mastery*. Her *Artistic Preparation and Performance Series* provides creative and sequential practice and performance tips for Debussy's *Golliwog's Cakewalk*, Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, and Chopin's *Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2*. A sequential approach to technique is presented in *Burgmüller, Czerny and Hanon: Piano Studies Selected for Technique and Musicality, Books 1 and 2*.

Ms. Clarfield maintains an independent studio in Princeton, New Jersey. Her students have performed concertos with several orchestras and have won top honors in state, national, and international competitions sponsored by the Music Teachers National Association, International Young Artist Piano Competition, the Steinway Society, and numerous others. They have performed in such prestigious venues as Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Steinway Hall, and several concert halls in Beijing.

In March 2006, Ms. Clarfield was honored at the Music Teachers National Association Conference in Austin, Texas, by being named an MTNA Foundation Fellow. This award, for which she was unanimously selected by the Board of the New Jersey Music Teachers Association, is given to "deserving individuals who have made significant contributions to the music world and the music teaching profession."

We will continue to accept proposals for Conference workshops until November 10, 2008. Please submit your ideas to: Carol Cross, NCTM. Email: dccross@kvalley.com.

Carol Cross, NCTM
Chair, WSMTA Conference 2009

PROGRAM REPORTS & REVIEWS



Call for Nominations

Who do you know that has made a difference in the music world and deserves to be inducted into our WSMTA Hall of Fame? Gather information and fill out the nomination form at wsmta.net.

A Hall of Fame honoree represents a lifetime of contributions in several of the following categories: local, state, division and national MTNA work; national boards; college or university teacher who has been a chairman, or dean initiating programs; music-related programs such as Dalcroze or Kodaly-Orff; music therapy, music journalism, recording, broadcasting; bringing music into community with local band, choir, orchestra, summer camps, chamber music; music business – above and beyond the call of duty; founder of music school or conservatory; Arts Commission; work with WMEA, Professional fraternities or sororities; church music, director, organist, hand bells.

The number of Hall of Fame inductees each year is limited to three (3). With this in mind, it is imperative that your list of contributions be complete and **very specific**. The committee looks forward to receiving your nominations by January 5, 2009.

Please see the September 2008 Clarion for the names of those who have already received this honor.

Thank you for your consideration. We will work together to recognize those who continue to work to make a difference in our lives and communities.

Jane Campbell, NCTM
Hall of Fame Chair

EDUCATION

MUSICIANSHIP EXAMS

Musicianship Examinations Are Ready to Go!

I am thrilled to introduce our state's new Musicianship Examinations program. Many chapters have participated in the Theory program in years past. We have been working to improve and expand this program over the last two years, and have come up with an outstanding new program!

Our ME program now includes more than just theory. Rhythm, sight-reading, technique, ear training, and many other exciting options are also offered. New handbooks are available for download on your state website: www.wsmta.net, or may be ordered from the WSMTA Executive Office for \$10.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this new program. I hope to hear from many new chapters this year who wish to offer these exams!

*Julie Mandery, WSMTA
Musicianship Examinations Chair*

ADJUDICATIONS

New & Notable

The 2008-09 Adjudications season is upon us! Here's what's new and notable for the coming year:

New: The Chapter Adjudications Booklet has been reformatted! The new look should be easier to scan, read and use for reference.

Notable: Check out the Scheduling & Timing Suggestions on Page 4 – there are some great ideas to make your adjudications experience the best yet!

New: The student fees have been increased by \$2 in each level.

Notable: See Page 2 of the Booklet for an easy to read list of all student fees.

Notable: Extra minutes still only cost \$1/minute! Use the time to:

- Add the 2nd movement of the Sonata;

- Schedule 3 minutes at the end of your adjudication for the student and parents to meet and thank the adjudicator;
- Purchase an extra 5 minutes to add to your oral evaluation time – there's always so much to talk about with the adjudicator!

New: FAQ'S (Frequently Asked Questions). Check out Page 8 of the booklet – you'll find answers to last year's top 5 questions.

Notable: The WSMTA Adjudications Chair is always willing and happy to answer your questions, help you with forms and offer suggestions and solutions to problems you may encounter. Contact me at any time.

*Janice Smith
WSMTA Adjudications Chair*

CERTIFICATION CORNER

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. There are still several grants available. 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 the grants.

Congratulations to the following certified teachers!

MTNA and WSMTA Certification in Piano

Donna Olson, NCTM, Lake Tapps

WSMTA Certification in Piano

Andrea Llafet, NCTM, Vancouver

WSMTA Certification Renewal in Piano

Patrick Stephens, NCTM, Seattle

Here is Certa Faye Cation's latest correspondence:

Dear Certa Faye,

I am interested in becoming a certified teacher? I went to the website, but it seems a little confusing. What do I do first? Thank you for your help.

Susan Goforth

Certa Faye:

Dear Sue,

Congratulations on your decision to *pursue* certification. I would recommend that you go to the MTNA web site and download the certification packet, which is a 22 page booklet that includes the entire application and all forms, plus added information. The next step would be to decide on who you want to ask to write your 3 letters of reference and to write to them, and to send for any college transcripts if you are gonna use 'em. You will also want to collect any performance verifications that you already have, which might include recitals that you have played in or letters from master teachers you have studied with which should include a list of the literature that you worked on. Then you should fill out the application.

You will have 2 choices of validating your academic competency... college credits in music theory, history and pedagogy or proficiency examinations in those three areas of study.

You will have 2 options to verify performance competency... again through college credits or proof of performance. (There is a list of example repertoire on the certification website.)

You will need to show your teaching competency by submitting the 3 letters of reference and showing a minimum of 2 years of teaching experience that could include your teaching schedules, class rosters, adjudication evaluations and a variety of other studio paperwork.

Then you will have to decide whether your final step will be to take the certification examination or to submit a portfolio. (If you are a part time or full time faculty member at a college or university, you may have an administrator write a letter of verification in place of the exam or portfolio.)

So, Sue, now *go forth* and submit your application. Y'all can do it!
Certa Faye

*Diane Stober, NCTM
WSMTA Certification Chair*

ENRICHMENT



Susie comes into your studio announcing that you charge more than her previous piano teacher. Tommy comes in wanting you to accommodate his lesson time to fit his sports practice and games (different each week). Mary says Mom wants to know when you will do her make-up lesson from the week before when she went to a birthday party instead of her lesson. The music store, when they finally made an order, received notice that your music is back ordered and you needed it a week ago. The piano tuner is booked for the next month and you are hosting your chapter meeting in two weeks and your piano needs to be tuned! A colleague has accepted one of your former students but has not contacted you to see if they have notified you, or if there are any unpaid fees or unreturned studio music. A student is still waiting for a ride home having completed the lesson 45 minutes ago. Haven't we all encountered one or more of these scenarios? If not, just wait, you will as an independent music teacher. *(to be continued in the Dec. issue)*

Doreen Slaugh, NCTM
IMTF Chair

NEW MUSIC

IN RECITAL with Jazz, Blues & Rags, by Helen Marlais (Books 1-6), published by FJH, \$6.95-\$7.95 per volume

These well-appointed volumes (complete with CD's) include original compositions as well as arrangements of historic favorites (*Little Brown Jug* in duet form can be found in Book 2.) Joplin's *Solace* is also arranged for duet in Book 2. The editing is clear, the pages are clean and easy to read, and the pieces are charming.

In Book 4 (Early Intermediate) there is a rousing duet version of *12th Street Rag*, as well as a solo arrangement of *I Love a Piano*. I am already thinking about which of my students deserves such a book! (It would have to be one who practices on a regular basis.)

Although the volumes do include original compositions, and a wide variety of styles, the most appealing to me are the accessible arrangements of such standards as Berlin's *Alexander's Ragtime Band* (Book 5) and Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag* (in duet form, Book 6).

Toe-Tappin' Twins by Claudette Hudelson (Intermediate duet published by FJH, 2.95)

This energetic hoedown is something of a cross between *Dueling Banjos* and *She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain*. That is to say, it has a lot of energy, appeal, and is a welcome addition to *The FJH Piano Ensemble Series*. I LOVE good duets!

Soaring by Mary Leaf (Intermediate/Late Intermediate duet published by FJH, 4.50)

This lyrical and tuneful duet begins in a straightforward and song-like manner, but becomes more complex in an energetic contrasting section with cross rhythms. This requires careful counting, and counting is a good thing! I point this out to students continually. For the flavor of this piece, think *Scarborough Fair* with a short *toccata* thrown in.

It is such a joy to introduce students to new repertoire!

Robin Chadwick, NCTM
WSMTA New Music Chair

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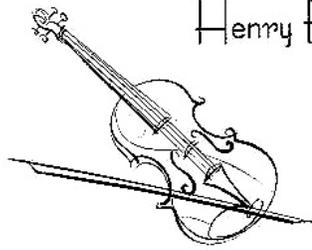
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Dates & Deadlines

Nov. 1: Chapter Adjudication Preliminary Report due.

Nov. 7-9: WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition, Tukwila.

Nov. 7-9: MTNA Performance Competition, Des Moines.

Nov. 18: District IV Conference, Centralia.

Nov. 22: Puyallup Valley Chapter Workshop, Master Class & Recital, Tacoma.

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Remember to visit your WSMTA website at : www.wsmta.net & see *The CLARION* in full color!